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10/025,336	12/19/2001	Per Christian Aas	PRETECH-06106	3473

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EXAMINER

MILLER, JONATHAN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/025,336

Applicant(s)

AAS ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan R. Miller

Art Unit

3653

63

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 27-35 and 37 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 and 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The phrase "pipe-shaped cover" renders the claim indefinite. A pipe can have many different shapes.

3. Claims 24 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Each claim has the limitation: "the note storage component is a film storage drum". This renders the claims indefinite. It is not clear what is meant by a film storage drum, and it seems to run counter to its meaning. How can a film storage drum hold currency notes? Or, how can something that holds currency notes be called a film storage drum?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-10 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe. The reference discloses a system configured to provide inflow and outflow of

Art Unit: 3653

input coins and notes, wherein said system automatically separates input coins and notes into different denominations and wherein said system reuses said input coins and notes as said output coins and notes (col. 1, lines 45+).

6. With regards to claim 4, the reference further discloses said coins comprise coins of greater than four denominations (col. 3, lines 45+).

7. With regards to claim 5, the reference further discloses a single slot (2) for the inflow of notes.

8. With regards to claim 7, the reference further discloses said notes and coins move through an opening in a countertop during the processes of inflow and storage, feed out from storage and output of said notes and coins to a user (Fig. 1).

9. With regards to claim 8, the reference further discloses a transport belt component (17) in communication with said notes, wherein said transport belt component is configured to receive and deliver notes; and at least one note storage component in communication with said transport belt component, wherein said note storage component is configured to receive notes from said transport belt component and dispense notes to said transport belt component (col. 2, lines 45+).

10. With regards to claim 9, the reference further discloses a note detection component (18) configured to identify and confirm the integrity of said notes input into said apparatus (col. 2, lines 64+).

11. With regards to claim 10, the reference further discloses said apparatus is configured for the simultaneous input of coins of greater than four denominations (col. 4, lines 4+).

12. With regards to claim 12, the reference further discloses one or more coin storage components in communication with an upper rotating disk and a lower rotating disk, wherein

Art Unit: 3653

said upper rotating disk and said lower rotating disk are configured to direct coins into and out of said coin storage component (col. 4, lines 7+). Examiner contends that elements 28 (the coin elevator belt) and 29 (the receiving belt) of the reference as shown in Fig. 3, each have rotating discs of which two are the upper and lower rotating disks. The coin elevator belt and the receiving belt are configured to direct coins into and out of said coin storage component.

13. With regards to claim 13, the reference further discloses one or more note and coin storage components where a last infed note or coin of a particular denomination is the first fed out note or coin of that denomination. The reference discloses that the last infed note is the first outfed note of a particular denomination (col. 2, lines 45+). Examiner contends this meets the limitations of claim 13, because "or" is used, thus only requiring notes **or** coins to be fed in this manner (LIFO).

14. With regards to claim 14, the reference further discloses a coin receiving unit (46) in communication with said upper rotating disk (component of 28), wherein said coin receiving unit is configured for the input and output of coins (col. 3, lines 62+). Examiner notes that the coin receiving unit is configured to receive an input of coins from element 10, and configured to output coins to element 28.

15. With regards to claim 15, the reference further discloses a coin detection component in communication with said upper rotating disk (col. 3, lines 56+).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

Art Unit: 3653

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claims 2, 3, 6, 16 – 23, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe.
18. With regards to claim 2, the reference fails to disclose said notes comprise notes issued by greater than one country. The reference is an automated teller machine—very well known and used around the world. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that this apparatus can be used with foreign currency instead of U.S. currency. This foreign currency includes the Euro. The Euro is issued by more than one country.
19. With regards to claim 3, the reference fails to explicitly disclose said notes comprise notes of greater than four denominations. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that ATMs can be configured to handle notes of greater than four denominations to attain the advantage of more customer options with regards to cash withdrawals and deposits.
20. With regards to claim 6, the reference fails to disclose said apparatus is less than 6 cubic feet in volume. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the overall size could be made smaller to achieve the advantage of a smaller footprint. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.
21. With regards to claim 16, the reference further discloses an apparatus for the inflow and outflow of coins and notes comprising a system for receiving and distributing coins and notes, said apparatus further comprising a single slot for the inflow of notes, herein said system

Art Unit: 3653

automatically separates input coins and notes into different denominations, reuses said input coins and notes as said output coins and notes (see above). The reference fails to disclose it is less than 6 cubic feet in volume. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the overall size could be made smaller to achieve the advantage of a smaller footprint. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

22. With regards to claim 17, the reference further discloses said notes comprise notes issued by greater than one country. The reference is an automated teller machine—very well known and used around the world. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that this apparatus can be used with foreign currency instead of U.S. currency. This foreign currency includes the Euro. The Euro is issued by more than one country.

23. With regards to claim 18, the reference further discloses said notes comprise notes of greater than four denominations. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that ATMs can be configured to handle notes of greater than four denominations to attain the advantage of more customer options with regards to cash withdrawals and deposits.

24. With regards to claim 19, the reference further discloses said coins comprise coins of greater than four denominations (col. 3, lines 45+).

25. With regards to claim 20, the reference further discloses one or more note and coin storage components wherein a last infed note or coin of a denomination is the first fed out note or coin of that denomination. The reference discloses that the last infed note is the first outfed note

Art Unit: 3653

of a particular denomination (col. 2, lines 45+). Examiner contends this meets the limitations of claim 13, because "or" is used, thus only requiring notes **or** coins to be fed in this manner (LIFO).

26. With regards to claim 21, the reference further discloses said apparatus further comprises a single slot (2) for the inflow of coins.

27. With regards to claim 22, the reference further discloses a transport belt component in communication with said notes, wherein said transport belt component is configured to receive and deliver notes; and at least one note storage component in communication with said transport belt component, wherein said note storage component is configured to receive notes from said transport belt component and dispense notes to said transport belt component.

28. With regards to claim 23, the reference further discloses a note detection component (17) configured to identify and confirm the integrity of said notes input into said apparatus, and one or more note direction changer components operably linked to said transport belt component and said note storage component, wherein said note direction changer component is configured to direct notes into and out or past each of said note storage components (col. 2, lines 45+).

29. With regards to claim 25, the reference further discloses said notes and coins move through an opening in a countertop during the processes of inflow and storage, feedout from storage and output of coins to a user (Fig. 1).

30. With regards to claim 26, the reference further discloses said note direction changer component is a note direction changer wheel (Fig. 2).

Allowable Subject Matter

31. Claims 27 – 35 and 37 allowed.

Art Unit: 3653

32. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not disclose or render obvious the at least one coin storage componet, wherein a last infed coin of a denomination is the first fed out coin of that denomination, in combination with the other elements of claim 27.

Conclusion


33. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan R. Miller whose telephone number is (703) 305-5778. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald P. Walsh can be reached on (703) 306-4173. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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